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RSPD Digest

WESTERN REGION

August 7, 1945

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No. 8 ... FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

DOUBLE TROUBLE - BUTTER: THAT STUFF!

The 3,073 pounds of bad butter to be offered for sale August 6--a hot potato in its own right--has been made doubly interesting by the reported sale of 170,000 pounds of butter to soap makers. Here are the facts--we hope.

Early this year, DPMA bought for government account two carloads of butter--approximately 80,000 pounds--from a creamery in Kansas. (See RSPDigest No. 7 of July 31)

It was shipped immediately to San Francisco and, in a spot check, Food and Drug found several bad lots. The spoilage, which resulted from unsanitary conditions within the creamery, could not be detected immediately. The spoilage developed somewhere en route, and we had no way of knowing the butter was bad when we purchased it. Anyway, both cars were shipped back to the Sugar Creek Creamery in Danville, Ill. Most of the butter was processed into butter oil and subsequently was shipped out under the Russian-Artic program. The 3,073 pounds now being offered were too far gone to be reprocessed--hence the proposed sale to renderers. The creamery in Kansas will reimburse the government for the cost of the butter less the sales price, so the government won't lose a penny on the deal.

Incidentally, you may have seen a statement by D. A. Fitzgerald, head of the Requirements and Allocations Office, in which he said the 3,073 pounds was the only loss cut of a total of 3,000,000 pounds located in Illinois. No one is quite sure where this figure came from, but it is safe to say that the two carloads made into butter oil were part of a total of 3,000,000 pounds marked for butter oil manufacture in the Danville plant.

The reported sale of 170,000 pounds to Proctor and Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive-Peet has nothing to do with the 3,073 pounds which are being sold currently. You can kill any rumors that the 170,000 pounds--wherever they came from--were USDA-owned. Note that we say "USDA-owned" not "government-owned." We don't know where the lot came from, so to be in the clear, just say it doesn't belong to USDA.

ANDERSON SPEECH

Secretary Anderson, in a radio address (8/3) at Stillwater, Oklahoma, said in part: I have come to Oklahoma to talk with people and to look at crops...We have been pleading with the American farmer to increase production. We have been saying to the people who consume meat in the great cities of this country that once the farmers have a chance to bring their livestock production to the highest possible level, we shall again find meat at the stores. But the key to the situation may be in the corn crop of 1945. We cannot turn to the American producer of hogs and tell him that he should set a high pig goal for 1946, unless and until we know that there is to be feed available for the increased number of pigs. We cannot afford again to go through the experience of 1943 when farmers came forth with a record pig crop of 122,000,000, and thus experienced a shortage of feed which forced them to cut production in the following year. The 1944 pig crop dropped way

(more)

down to 87,000,000 and the 1945 pig crop will probably be no bigger. Now if we want to get pork production back up to the heights to which some of us believe it should go, we must make very sure that the market price is going to be attractive to the farmer and that if he does his part, we will do ours by giving him adequate and effective support prices....

I believe it's within our power to determine what kind of a world we're going to have after this war...We need to be doing some serious thinking and planning now about how we are going to shift over from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy and still stay in high gear. Livestock producers have a big stake in this problem because their market is so sensitive to the effects of changes in demand...The whole question of price protection for farmers, following the end of the war, demands our most earnest consideration. Some reserve funds are available to the USDA to help tide us over in the period of adjustment after lend-lease shipments cease. Similar protection should be provided in connection with supplies scheduled for the armed services. If military requirements could be looked upon as firm commitments -- if it could be agreed either that the military would stand ready to purchase for a given period or supply the equivalent in funds to purchase the amounts requested, regardless of the time the war may end, the price-supporting effect would be large in relation to the cost. And this, after all, should be looked upon as one of the costs of war....

The farm plant cannot be shut off on V-J Day like a factory production line...Fortunately, however, food is not like a tank, useful only in war, so any financial loss that may be necessary should be relatively small...Most farmers are uneasy about the future, and not without reason. In World War I farm production increased less than 9%. This time agricultural output has soared to a point 33% above the pre-war average. Moreover, this great increase in production has been accomplished with about $6\frac{1}{2}$ million fewer persons on farms than there were in 1918 -- and about 5 million fewer than in 1940....It is a good sign that we hear so much about the determination to have full employment. There can be no farm prosperity without it... Even as long as 10 or 15 years back it had become evident to nearly everybody that our skill in production had, for the time being at least, outrun our skill in distribution...

After the war -- in other words if we have full employment -- it is estimated that the average American consumer would eat a third more so-called red meat than he is eating right now, 15% more poultry meat, a few less eggs, because of larger meat supplies, and enough milk and dairy products to call for 15% greater milk production. ...We ought to give thought to two great cash crops, cotton and wheat. Both of these commodities are now selling at close to parity. But I am sure you realize that current parity prices, or even 90 or 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of parity cannot be maintained for all the cotton and wheat that farmers can produce for more than a year or two after the war...

So far as I can see there is only one course for the people of this country to adopt in the years after the war. I should like to see the people of this country produce and distribute things for good living -- meat, eggs, milk, automobiles, telephones, radios, air conditioning equipment, television sets -- with the same drive they exhibited in producing and using guns and planes and ships to lick the Axis. I should like to see them war on poverty so ceaselessly that within a decade or two malnutrition would be as well controlled as diphtheria and smallpox are today. All this is possible if we have the determination, and act upon the motto of the great State of Oklahoma: "Work Conquers All Things."

THE RECORD SPEAKS

On July 16, in a broadcast over the ABC network, Secretary Anderson outlines the objectives he had set for the Department. These included (1) "... to increase production to the limit of our ability"; (2) "... to improve the distribution of food"; (3) "... close and constant scrutiny of military and foreign demands for food. . . with due recognition for the needs of our own civilians and the availability of food supplies from all sources"; (4) "... to tap resources in other parts of the world for additional food and feed supplies needed by this country"; (5) "... to help the needy in liberated areas."

Keeping these objectives in mind, it's interesting to note some of the press releases issued during July:

Butter Set-Aside for August Reduced to 20 Percent - July 7

Secretary Anderson Outlines New Slaughter Certification Program - July 9

USDA Reduces Army-Style, and Rosher Beef Set-Asides - July 13

Slaughter Certification Order Effective July 16 - July 13

Lamb Set-Aside Reduced - July 13

Army Pork Set-Aside Reduced - July 18

Lamb Set-Aside Terminated - July 19

Changes in Soap Formulas for Certain Types of Soap - July 24.

Beef Set-Aside Percentages Reduced - July 25

Fruit, Vegetable Markets Asked to Resume Six-Day Week - July 25

Pork Set-Aside Percentage Changed to Aid Distribution - July 27

Government Set-Aside on Lard Reduced - July 27

CCC Payments to Sheep Raisers and Lamb Feeders - July 27

No Subsidy Now on Feed Wheat - July 28

Poultry Canning Order Partly Suspended - July 31

THE 1945 LAMB CROP

The 1945 lamb crop, estimated at 28,250,000 head, was $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ smaller than the 1944 lamb crop. It was about 8% below the 10-year (1934-43) average. The higher percentage lamb crop (number of lambs saved per 100 ewes 1 year old and over on Jan. 1) this year offset to some extent the decrease of 6% in breeding ewes compared with 1944. This higher percentage resulted largely from the rather favorable weather at lambing time over most of the country. The lamb crop of 9,432,000 head in the native sheep States was 681,000 head or nearly 7% smaller than the 1944 crop. The number of ewes 1 year old and over in these States on Jan. 1 was down nearly 1 million head or 9%. The lamb crop was below last year's in all of the North Central States and in most of the important sheep States in other regions. Texas is the only one of the Western sheep States where the number of ewes 1 year old and over on Jan. 1 was larger this year than last.

Although the 1945 lamb crop was smaller than that of 1944, available records of marketings and slaughter indicate that at least as many 1945 lambs had gone to slaughter by Aug. 1 as had 1944 lambs to the same date -- a result, largely, of the record slaughter of Calif. and Tex. lambs. With early and generally good to excellent pastures in the native sheep States cold, wet weather to the end of June in the Rocky Mountain and Inter-Mountain States was somewhat unfavorable for the growth of the lambs, but with good summer range conditions the lambs from these States are expected to make at least average growth. The severe drought that has developed over much of New Mexico and parts of Arizona and West Texas has reduced the condition of the lambs over this area and a large part of these lambs may have to be marketed at light weights. The estimate of the 1945 lamb crop is based upon reports of sheep producers whose flocks on Jan. 1, 1945 contained about 2.9 million breeding ewes (including ewe lambs). This number is about 8% of the total estimated ewes. For the native sheep States the reports were largely obtained by the rural mail carriers in cooperation with the Post Office Dept. For the Western sheep States they were obtained by mail from owners of both range and ranch flocks.

THE "FOOD POOL" is the latest feature in the program of Director of Home Food Supply Paul C. Stark, to make the most of home grown foods this year. The following definition of the plant is being sent to State Nutrition Committee Chairmen by M. L. Wilson, Chief of the Nutrition Programs Branch.

The "Food Pool" is principally the fresh or conserved production of Victory Gardens over and above what is needed for the family supply, together with certain market supplies which may occasionally be in excess at the height of the shipping season. What neighbors swap with each other in community gardens over and above the back yard fence is part of the Food Pool. Fresh vegetables systematically donated and gathered from home gardens for charitable institutions are part of the "Food Pool." The institutions to which they are given can use these fresh or they may can or store them in their own facilities. Natural food pool centers are the community canning projects where excess vegetables can be put up for assignment to Red Cross, school lunch rooms, local charities, or other worthy causes.

The "Food Pools" will be administered by local committees which will determine the recipients of the food, arrange for youth or other organizations to gather and deliver it to local institutions or canning and storage centers; set up canning centers where there are none, provide tin cans or other requirements (usually through the generosity of local service clubs or individuals) and generally "sell" the project to the local community.

FOOD SITUATION

From the July 1945 Issue of The National Food Situation:

No significant relief from shortages of civilian food supplies is in prospect for the next 12 months. Such foods as meats, fats and oils, sugar, cheese, condensed and evaporated milk, poultry, eggs, and canned fruit and canned vegetables will continue short in relation to current high demands. In addition, rice, dry beans, apples, and processed foods using large amounts of sugar and fats and oils may become short. On the other hand, civilian supplies of fluid milk, skim milk products, canned fruit juices, many fresh vegetables and fruits including citrus fruits, fresh fish, and most grain products will be fairly plentiful and will help keep the general level of nutrition above the pre-war level.

The basic food problem of the United States in 1945 is to distribute an over-all food output one-third greater than in 1935-39 to meet an over-all civilian, military, and export demand approximately one-half greater than the pre-war demand.

Total food production in 1945 may be 3 to 4 percent below 1944, but 33 percent above the average 1935-39. Total production of food from livestock in the calendar year 1945 may be about 5 percent less than last year, although 34 percent above pre-war. Most of the reduction from 1944 in livestock products is concentrated in the first 3 quarters of the year. The current outlook is for not much improvement in the first half of 1946 over the 1945 level. On the basis of July 1 conditions, the production of food crops for sale and farm home consumption in 1945 will be nearly the same as in 1944 and about 29 percent above the pre-war (1935-39) average.

Current pasture conditions and indicated large supply of hay are favorable for maintaining a high level of milk and beef production. Chicken numbers on farms on July 1 were somewhat above numbers a year ago and prospects are that chicken and egg production will also be maintained at a high level. Hogs numbers were reduced during 1944, and pork production for the first 3 quarters of 1945 has been far below last year's levels. Output of pork will be moderately smaller this fall than last. Some improvement in pork supplies may occur in the late spring and summer of 1946, when 1945 fall pigs reach market weights. More pigs will be raised this fall than last, but market weights of hogs next year will be materially lighter than the record weights this year, reflecting smaller supplies of feed grains.

The Department of Agriculture is continuously reviewing the food needs of civilians, of the armed forces, and of liberated areas. It now looks as if the food supply of the United States in 1945 will be distributed about as follows: 77 percent to U. S. civilians, 17 percent to the armed forces, including relief feeding by the military, 4 or 5 percent purchased by the Department of Agriculture for shipment abroad under lend-lease and for civilian relief and 1 or 2 percent for commercial exports and shipments. In 1944, about 13 percent of the food went to our armed forces, 7 percent was exported, and civilians consumed 80 percent.

Both total and civilian supplies of sugar and eggs will be smaller in the next six months than they were in the first half of the year. Prospects are good for increased civilian egg supplies in 1946. The sugar situation will be tight for some time because of short world sugar supplies and because United States consumption in 1944 and the early part of 1945 was out of proportion to the reduced over-all supplies available to the United States. The large quantities of canned fish, rice, canned fruits and canned vegetables which our armed forces need for the Pacific War will reduce the supplies of those foods for civilians this fall and winter compared with last year. The apple crop will be short this fall.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES - Higher prices for meat animals, truck crops and poultry contributors to the 14 point increase in the general level of mid-July prices received by farmers for agricultural commodities over a year ago. At 206 percent of the 1909-1914 average, the general level of farm products prices was the same as a month earlier but the highest July index since 1920. The parity index (prices paid, including interest and taxes), at 173 for the 5th consecutive month, was only 3 points above July 1944. This left farm product prices at 119 percent of parity, the same as in June, but 6 points higher than in July last year. While some commodities average well above parity, prices of 3 of the 6 basic crops are below parity, wheat being 95, cotton 99, and peanuts 99 percent of parity on July 15.

A 15 point increase in livestock and livestock product prices gave more lift to the all farm commodity index as compared with July of last year than did the increase in crop prices....The demand for farm products continues strong. There has been no significant increase in unemployment. Total non agricultural salaries and wages have remained about constant since October 1944 so that there is little change in the available power of consumers.

Average prices paid by farmers for commodities were again characterized by stability as the index continued at 180 percent of the 1910-1914 average during the month ending July 15. This index has not changed since March 15, and in July was only 4 points higher than a year earlier. Converted to 1919-29 base the mid-July index was 112, and on a 1934-39 base it was 114, both unchanged since last March.

Prices paid for few commodities used in family living and farm production changed significantly from June 15 to July 15 and price indexes for both groups were the same as in June. At 185 the price index for family living items was 6 points higher than a year earlier. The farm production group, at 174, was only 1 point higher.

USDA CALLED BIGGEST MAIL CONCERN

The June issue of The Reporter of Direct Mail Advertising (N. Y.) devotes many pages to discussion of the method used by USDA in conducting its educational and extension programs by mail. Editorially it says: "Clinton Anderson inherits what is practically the best organized business-by-mail concern in the world. It is by far the biggest, exceeding in ramifications even the staggering figures of any of the largest mail order corporations."

SUBSIDIES

Lamb

Some questions have been raised about subsidy payments on lambs and sheep bought by and delivered to packers but which they have been unable to slaughter before midnight, August 4, the date on which the R. F. C. has announced that the subsidy of 95 cents per hundredweight paid on lambs and sheep slaughtered is withdrawn. This situation may leave a few sheep and lambs ineligible for either the R. F. C. slaughter payment or for the direct payment by Commodity Credit Corporation to producers, feeders and other who sell and deliver sheep or lambs after midnight, August 4. In most cases producers and feeders have arranged for sale and delivery to slaughterers on or after Monday, August 6.

It is not the intention of the R. F. C. or the U. S. D. A. to deprive any eligible sheep and lambs from the payments. Therefore, the sheep and lambs eligible for the R. F. C. payment which cannot be slaughtered by midnight, August 4, will receive the 95 cents slaughter subsidy payment from Commodity Credit Corporation provided the lambs and sheep are slaughtered prior to midnight, August 8. This will permit slaughterers time enough to slaughter lambs which would otherwise be ineligible because of their inability to slaughter before midnight, August 4.

Slaughterers having claims for this 95 cents payment should mail their applications and supporting evidence direct to the Commodity Credit Corporation, Washington, D.C. Rather than to district offices of Defense Supplies Corporation or country offices of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency.

No Subsidy Now On Feed Wheat

Secretary Anderson has announced that while a feed-wheat subsidy program had been under consideration, no such program will be instituted at the present time. The principal reasons are (1) that the growing season for corn and other feed grains is not sufficiently advanced to permit an accurate appraisal now of next winter's feed supply and requirements, and (2) that large export requirements for wheat for immediate use as food may make it inadvisable to encourage the use of additional wheat for feed by means of subsidies. It was pointed out, however, that there are no restrictions on the use of wheat for feed, and that wheat may be purchased for feed wherever adequate supplies of other grains are not available. Attention was also called to the availability of the large crop of high quality oats now being harvested.

Canned Vegetable

Rates of subsidy payments to canners under the 1945 canned vegetable subsidy program (announced June 30) are: For canned peas, sweet corn, and tomato juice, the subsidy rate for sales made between May 1, 1945, and June 30, 1946 (both dates inclusive), will continue at the same rate as specified in the 1944 ceiling price regulations.

For canned tomatoes, as announced July 5, the subsidy rate for sales between May 1, 1945, and June 30, 1946 (both dates inclusive), will be increased 6¢ per dozen for No. 2 cans, with proportionate adjustments for other container sizes. Subsidy rates for eligible pea soup and eligible tomato products including tomato soup, will be determined in the same manner as under the 1944 Canned Vegetable Subsidy Program, based on the difference between the 1945 grower support price per ton of raw product and the 1943 resale price of the CCC.

Where open market purchases are made below grower support prices, the 1945 subsidy payments will be computed in the same manner as under the 1944 program. The rates of payment per dozen No. 2 cans (5/1/45 to 6/30/46) will be as follows: green peas, 20¢; sweet corn, 8¢; tomatoes, 18¢; and tomato juice, 6¢. Adjustments will be made for other container sizes. Subsidy payments on the 1945 pack of canned snap beans will be announced at a later date.

FOOD ORDERS

Chicken Procurement

Secretary Anderson on Saturday issued a new order designed to provide chicken for the U. S. armed forces and to protect civilian supplies by providing for military purchases from a large number of processors over a wide area at the time of the year when marketings are increasing seasonally.

Applicable in 12 major poultry-producing states on the effective date, August 13, 1945, the order (WFO 142) provides for the equal sharing by the armed forces and civilians of all poultry handled in "authorized" plants. The States designated as the "poultry area" are: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The new order does not affect operation of WFO 119, the poultry set-aside order now applying in designated areas of 8 major broiler-producing states.

"Operation of the new order," Secretary Anderson said, "is directed toward fulfillment in the shortest possible time of a minimum requirement for 125 million pounds of dressed poultry to be held for the preparation of canned poultry for the armed forces, when canning provisions of WFO 125 again become effective, October 1. The new procurement order, which can be extended to other areas if necessary, also will help to augment supplies of fresh poultry being obtained in broiler-producing areas."

Beginning with the effective date of the new order, the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps, buying poultry for the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps, will purchase 50 percent of the poultry killed, bled, and plucked (New York dressed) in authorized plants in designated areas.

While a part of the canned poultry requirement--nearly one-half--may be supplied by using turkeys, the major portion must be derived from fowl (hens).

"In this connection," Secretary Anderson said, "it must be clearly understood that farmers and poultrymen are not being urged to sell their laying hens. We must not jeopardize the nation's egg supply next year. I am asking merely that when the farmer or poultryman, in carrying on normal culling operations, has hens to sell that he sell them only to authorized suppliers providing Army poultry under this program."

In asking for the cooperation of poultrymen, farmers, and processors, Secretary Anderson said, "Since the QMC must buy dressed poultry, a major problem of poultry procurement has been to maintain a flow of live poultry through established channels to which the Army has access. To facilitate this task under the new order, authorized processors, their buyers, or suppliers, will be furnished with official stickers for their truck windshields. The stickers will be signed and issued by the authorized processor to whom deliveries of live poultry will be made. Authorized processors, suppliers and others qualified to obtain live chickens under the order, also will be provided with official USDA posters to display in their plants or buying stations."

"Such identification," Secretary Anderson said, "will make it easy for the poultry producer to cooperate with his government and to make certain that his poultry is actually reaching the armed forces and legitimate trade channels for civilians."

Aimed toward maintaining a supply of live poultry for authorized processors in the designated States, an order provision prohibits shipment or delivery of live poultry to a point more than 100 miles from the farm on which it was produced, except by those holding a letter of authority from the Deputy Order Administrator.

Poultry Canning

Secretary Anderson on August 1 announced suspension until October 1, 1945 of canning operations for the Government under WFO 125, as amended, the poultry canning Order. This action, effective at 12:01 a.m. August 1, will permit the Nation's canning facilities to be used until October 1, 1945, for the preparation of canned chicken and canned chicken products for civilian use.

Canners have operated under WFO 125 since February 14, 1945 when a requirement of 70 million pounds of canned poultry for the Armed Forces was announced. Production under the Order has been better than expected and the supply of canned chicken thus exceeds Governmental needs for the next few weeks.

Set-aside provisions of the Order pertaining to processed and canned poultry produced before the suspension will remain in effect.

While the supply of poultry suitable for products wanted by the U. S. armed forces is now very scarce, other grades and classes suitable for canning are available. By suspending the Order temporarily it will be possible for canners to produce such products as chicken soup, chicken a la king, chicken with noodles, and other similar chicken products for civilian use.

Butter

Set aside of creamery butter for Government purchase for the month of August has been revised to 20 percent, from the originally scheduled 30 percent. This reduction is made possible by the fact that production during July ran somewhat higher than expected and it now appears likely that August production also will be slightly higher than originally estimated for that month.

Soap

Production of laundry soap will be increased 10 percent as the result of Amendment No. 6 to soap order WFO 42b. Under the Amendment more water softening "builder" materials and less fats and oils will be used, with no decrease in the cleansing qualities. With Army requirements for the next months lower, considerably more soap will be available for civilians. This "should persuade housewives of this country to discontinue the practice of raiding the shelves of stores as soon as a new shipment arrives," the Secretary said in making the announcement. He added that he does not plan to authorize the rationing of soap.

California Figs

Terminated, August 1, War Food Order 22, which prohibited the use of California figs in fresh, frozen, or dried form for non-food uses without specific authorization.

FROM THE WEEKLY REPORTS:

ARIZONA

Week ending August 4, 1945 -- "For once we are stuck with the problem of having practically nothing to report. With the exception of the melon harvest, this is the between season period in agriculture in Arizona.

We are happy to report that so far the melon crop is moving into the market smoothly. Transportation and icing facilities are adequate to date."

OREGON

Week ending August 4, 1945 -- LAMB -Producer lack of definite detail subsidy information and buyer info in advance of official announcement resulted in many "pressure" sales to buyers at prices out of line...some will make handsome profits out of such transactions...aside from that lamb situation favorable...prices firm, supplies clearing well. TURKEYS - crop over 10 percent greater than '44 of 2 million birds...feed big question with processors short of labor and refusing further feed orders...working with Feed Dealer Assn. to solve manpower problem.

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WFO 8 - Arden's discontinuance of ice cream mix caused many counter-freezers to switch to Farmers Dairy Assn without due regard for transferring quota...tightening of WFO 8 finds them without quota and former records hard to get...calling at rate of one or more a day. MILK SUPPLY - distributors in small towns going farther afield to get supplies...district base prices makes procurement difficult outside each district...such cases. CPA procedure...fuel a problem with some dairies burning green slabs and refused priority to convert to oil...Alton Hurley present to help out. LABOR - jurisdictional disputes at a condensery and a cannery may effect food processing...facts on both forwarded Office of Labor.

SPOKANE

Week ending August 4, 1945 -- POTATOES - acute marketing problem...20 cent drop in ceiling August 1 caused heavy July movement resulting in glut...ceased digging and embargoed out of state shipment until Aug. 6 leaving 800 to 900 empty reefers on sidings throughout the state...ICC unhappy and will divert cars to pears...embargo also left one car icing firm with 65 just hired Mexican nationals which they had to pay for in order to hold them for subsequent work...the press lampooned the embargo...hope of OS purchase has helped...embargo appears to have failed since Colorado, Idaho and Eastern Oregon spuds continue to move to market and will move into Washington if shortage develops. ICE - to avoid '44 ice shortage situation close watch is being kept on present situation with survey of all major producers supplying Spokane...with labor primary problem things are rocking along with low supplies but always enough day to day to carry on...if no emergency arises probably squeezes through...definite civilian shortage in Pasco-Kennewick area as only nine ton daily capacity to meet fourteen ton demand...trying to divert some ice from car icing firm at Pasco to retail channels.

SEATTLE

Week ending August 4, 1945 -- SCHOOL LUNCH - Governor, super of public instruction, Carter and Flynn met to negotiate contract...outlook hopeful. INDUSTRIAL FEEDING - Hobart contacted plants and backed up request for ration increase...plants threaten feeding closure or buying from no-points-needed sources. FOOD PRESERVATION - mail requests to schools and communities to participate community canning non-productive but follow-up personal calls from staff got immediate action with several schools placing large orders with state canneries little to Voc. Ed. POTATOES - no problem in western Washington producing area as Mt. Vernon crop practically total failure...Seattle report on E. Wash. spuds that growers getting \$2 US No. 1 and 80 cents for 2s...also report that shippers told QMC would take 50 percent crop and therefore shippers did not contract for all their crop...no QMC purchase to date. BUTTER - supplies picked up somewhat...some distributor complained that large retailers going direct to creameries for supplies...principal shortage in AA grade...but supply of all grades apparently sufficient to meet ration demand. EGGS - extremely tight especially better grades.

MONTANA

Week ending August 6, 1945 - GENERAL CROP - grain crops damaged by heat wave some complete failure in central part state...winter wheat escaped and harvesting started...sugar beets show steady growth as did all irrigated crops...sweet cherry pickling in process with crop half completed...grasshopper damage in non-irrigated east Montana reported increasing. - DAIRY AND POULTRY - inquiries on turkey sales numerous, all advised freeze still on and WFO 126 explained...application to WPB made for pasteurizing plant at Forsyth...eliminate raw milk in area and shipment of pasteurized milk from Billings...approved likely. SCHOOL LUNCH - agreement

state not completed...many requests for assistance been received from interested sponsors. FAT SALVAGE - decrease and check with renderers indicate lack of pork and hot weather major causes, ICE - ample in storage.

IDAHO

Week ending August 4, 1945 - POTATOES - harvest of Bliss Triumph to complete next week...Russets starting...shipments heavy but hampered by car shortage. OTHER CROPS - fair onion crop, some thrip damage..cherries and cots finished ... and cots abundant locally...peach and apple crop excellent with heavy harvest anticipated. DEFERMENTS - few requests only one certification...most requests for men 26 and younger....reluctant to certify. WMC - attended lucheon on overall labor needs in the West. SCHOOL LUNCH - No agreement yet as state head out of town...complete verbal agreement in preliminary discussions with hope to get state to assume more responsibility...regional statistics request being compiled to be forwarded shortly. FAT SALVAGE - report on 10 north counties not in but southern report totals 35 thousand pounds. EGGS - retailers having difficulty getting supplies, particularly smaller stores buying direct from producer...as farmer can sell at the farm and not haul them in...suspect ceiling being evaded.

Darwin, in an effort to determine the effects of music on plants, once hired a trombonist to play several hours a day to a row of beans.

